

## CRITICISM LESSONS.

1. *Introductory Lesson to Carton Work.* Class 1A. Miss Reid.

The subject was introduced by references to the work the child had seen done in class by other pupils, and by showing some finished carton models. The teacher then let the child point out the big squares on the paper, make dots where the dark lines crossed each other, and join these dots by ruling straight lines. The lesson had to be confined to these preliminary exercises, as the child, though very interested and attentive, proved himself exceedingly inexperienced in using his hands. The model to have been begun was an ingenious but simple photograph frame.

2. *Physiology—The Skin.* Class III. Miss Whittall.

The lesson began by the pupils examining the skin of their hands through lenses. From this examination they made out that the skin was hairy, flexible and furrowed. It was thought, however, that more might have been made of this. The teacher then spoke of the various functions of the skin, putting headings on the blackboard and explaining with the help of an excellent diagram. The children read from their books a passage summarising what had been already gone over.

3. *Geography—Somerset.* Class II. Miss G. Viney.

The children first studied the physical features and towns of the county in their atlases, and then filled them in on a map on the blackboard. Then they read from their books about the towns, the teacher amplifying with various details of great interest. The children were only able to narrate this extra information, knowing very little of the actual geography of the county. It was agreed that it would have been better to have had two narrations, as in that case the result would probably have been better.

J. V. G.

## MRS. STEINTHAL'S LECTURE.

At the beginning of this term we were so fortunate as to have a lecture on Brush-drawing from Mrs. Steintal, a most interesting and helpful lecture in which each point was practically illustrated, the result being a delightful study of a rose-hip. Mrs. Steintal said that for children's brush-drawing the subject should be simple, so the removal of two or three leaves, etc., before beginning is often advisable. Then a shadow adds greatly to the effect of a brush-drawing; but care must be taken that it is not too heavy. An outline is conducive towards good drawing, but it must be filled in at once, not left to get dry; and the use of the point of the wooden handle of the paint-brush is a most effective way of putting in the veins of the leaves. In speaking of design at the end of the lecture, Mrs. Steintal recommended "Decorative Brushwork and Elementary Design," by Henry Cadness (B. T. Batsford, 94, High Holborn), a copy of which she has since most kindly sent to the library. Two other books have also been given for the library by Mr. Perez, one on the "Keramic Art of Japan," the other on "Engraved Gems."

E. S.

## DRAWING-ROOM EVENINGS.

There have been only two papers given on Tuesday evenings this term. Miss Stevens gave the first on "Isabelle d'Este," a notable woman of the Renaissance Period. In her paper Miss Stevens showed us Isabelle d'Este's character as a woman and as a collector of artistic treasures. In addition, she gave us a realistic picture of the life and customs of the period.

"The Art of James McNeil Whistler" was the title of Miss Strachan's paper. The artist's character and work were fully dealt with in an exceptionally interesting manner. Miss Strachan, herself a great admirer of Whistler, worked out in her paper the cause of the public attitude to this artist during his lifetime, and spoke of the popular mistaken idea of the true mission of art.

J. V. G.



Mr. Oscar Browning's visit occurred early in the term. He arrived on Wednesday, October 13th, and next day he heard the final criticism lessons. As soon as these were over, the Seniors gave a display of Swedish drill (in the gymnasium, under the command of Miss Smith), and the morning ended with reading.

In the afternoon a select company of Seniors gave an exhibition of dancing, including ball exercises, castanet dance, Spanish exercises, reels and strathspeys. We afterwards assembled in the classroom, where Mr. Browning gave a most interesting lecture on "The Study of History." He made a brief sketch of the history of the world, and gave directions how to study it.

Friday morning was devoted to lessons given by the staff. We Seniors had a delightful biology lesson from Miss Drury on "Crustaceans." Besides having prawns to examine, we were shown a live crayfish.

Miss Drury afterwards gave a tonic sol-fa lesson on the Minor mode.

Miss Williams gave a lesson on "Virgil" to the upper Latin divisions. Mademoiselle Mottu gave us a lecture on "Zamacoïs"—a modern poet, then questioned us on French history and literature. The Seniors read a scene from "Faust" with Fräulein Grimm, who also gave the Juniors an Italian series.

In the afternoon an "At Home" was held, the chief feature of which was a lecture in French on "Napoleon" by Mr. Browning, who described a series of interesting episodes in the life of Buonaparte. He declared that Napoleon was not only the greatest, but the best, man who ever lived. This point was disputed by several members of the audience, but the majority could not help being carried along by the enthusiasm of Mr. Browning. He took leave of the students immediately after the lecture, and departed amid deafening applause and cheers.

L. M. McD.

Apr 1909 8/